



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Browallia speciosa*¹

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Introduction

Browallia produces blue or white flowers over a long period of time (Fig. 1). The plant prefers afternoon shade and has a height of one to one and a half feet. Over fertilization causes leaf growth at the expense of flower production. *Browallia* is suitable for hanging pots.

General Information

Scientific name: *Browallia speciosa*

Pronunciation: bro-WAL-ee-uh spee-see-O-suh

Common name(s): *Browallia*, Amethyst Flower

Family: *Solanaceae*

Plant type: annual

USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun

Planting month for zone 8: May

Planting month for zone 9: Apr

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Mar; Sep; Oct; Nov

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: mass planting; container or above-ground planter; cut flowers; cascading down a wall

Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: moderate

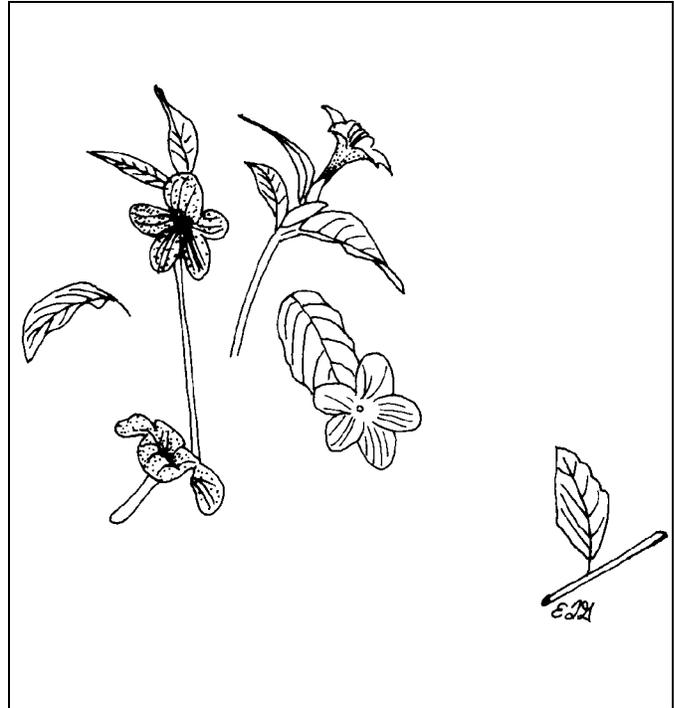


Figure 1. *Browallia*.

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf shape: ovate
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: not applicable
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: not applicable
Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: blue; purple
Flower characteristic: showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: no fruit
Fruit length: no fruit
Fruit cover: no fruit
Fruit color: not applicable
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable
Current year stem/twig color: green

Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun
Soil tolerances: clay; sand; acidic; loam
Drought tolerance:
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 6 to 12 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: not applicable
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

The seed germinates in two to three weeks at temperatures of 75-degrees F. Do not cover the seed with soil. The plants can be pinched to encourage bushiness. Browallia needs to be hardened off before planting outside. In USDA hardiness zones 10 and 11, plant in the fall for winter bloom.